

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02

PM-04 SS-15 NSC-05 ACDA-07 /097 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:DP

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 068731

R 040842Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 3, 1976

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 3, 1976:

Q. WHEN DID AMBASSADOR BROWN RETURN TO LEBANON?

A. I BELIEVE HE GOT BACK THERE SATURDAY SOMETIME
DURING THE DAY.

Q. NOT FRIDAY?

A. I BELIEVE HE LEFT HERE FRIDAY NIGHT.

Q. WHY WEREN'T WE TOLD THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING ON FRIDAY
NIGHT?

A. I THINK AT THE TIME OF THE FRIDAY BRIEFING PERHAPS THE
SPOKESMAN DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHEN HE WOULD BE LEAVING.
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AND BY FRIDAY NIGHT I DO NOT THINK WE COULD HAVE GOT HOLD
OF MANY OF YOU.

Q. HOW LONG WILL HE BE THERE, BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR
GOOD?

A. HE WILL BE BACK THERE BRIEFLY. MY INFORMATION IS HE
WILL BE REPLACED BY AMBASSADOR MELOY IN THE FIRST PART

OF MAY. I DO NOT HAVE ANY MORE PRECISE TIME PERIOD FOR YOU THAN THAT AT THE MOMENT.

Q. HAVE YOU ANYTHING ON LEBANON TODAY?

A. NO, NOTHING. IN WHAT WAY?

Q. WELL, HAVE YOU ANY INDICATION OF ANY FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN BY SYRIA?

A. NO, NONE.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THIS STORY -- I THINK IT WAS A JACK ANDERSON COLUMN -- RELATING TO A KIND OF COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NORTH YEMEN, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES, WITH THE UNITED STATES PROVIDING WEAPONS TO NORTH YEMEN BUT WITH SAUDI ARABIA PAYING FOR THEM?

A. WE HAVE SOME INFORMATION. YOU WILL RECALL LAST SKMMER WE DID DISCUSS THIS AT SOME LENGTH IN THE BRIEFING AND CONFIRMED AT THAT TIME THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC TO LOOK TO SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER FRIENDLY REGIONAL COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE IN A PROGRAM OF MILITARY MODERNIZATION. WE SAID ALSO WE WERE PREPARED TO SELL APPROPRIATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TO PROVIDE SOME TRAINING TO THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR ANALYSIS OF THEIR LIMITED NEEDS. WE HAVE HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CONGRESS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY -- THE POSSIBILITY -- OF SOME SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO NORTH YEMEN.

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THAT IS ABOUT ALL I HAVE TO GIVE YOU ON IT.

Q. WHEN WERE THESE DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH THE CONGRESS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE PRECISE DATES. I BELIEVE IN THE PERIOD -- I WOULD SAY, IN THE LAST SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS. I COULD FIND THAT OUT FOR YOU. I REALLY DO NOT KNOW.

Q. HAS SAUDI ARABIA ORDERED ANY ARMS FOR NORTH YEMEN? DO YOU KNOW?

A. HAVE THEY ORDERED ANY ARMS FOR NORTH YEMEN?

Q. YES.

A. I REALLY DO NOT KNOW. MY INFORMATION IS THAT THEY HAVE NOT YET. I BELIEVE THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. YOS HAVE NO WORD -- OR DO YOU HAVE ANY WORD -- AS TO WHETHER A SOVIET SHIP CARRYING MIGS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT ARRIVED IN THE HARBOR THERE AND THEN TURNED BACK?

A. NO. I DO NOT HAVE ANY WAY TO CONFIRM THAT.

Q. IN OTHER WORDS, THIS THING IS NO FURTHER ADVANCED THAN WHEN IT WAS DISCUSSED WITH CONGRESS LAST -- SEVERAL MONTHS AGO -- OR HAS THERE BEEN ANY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT?

A. I DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT THAT I CAN REPORT TO YOU RIGHT NOW. WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS. I WOULD NOT SAY THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO ADVANCE SINCE WE DISCUSSED IT LAST SUMMER. I JUST DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHERE IT IS.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND NORTH YEMEN TO PROVIDE AMERICAN WEAPONS?

A. I REALLY DO NOT KNOW. I THINK MAYBE YOUR INFORMATION MIGHT BETTER COME FROM ONE OF THEM -- ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

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Q. WELL, NOT IF THE UNITED STATES IS PROVIDING THE WEAPONS. I DON'T THINK THAT'S PROPER.

A. YOU SAID AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN YEMEN AND SAUDI ARABIA?

Q. AMONG -- EXCUSE MY GRAMMAR. AMONG THE UNITED STATES, SAUDI ARABIA AND NORTH YEMEN.

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN AGREEMENT YET. I SAID THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF SOME SALES, AND I THINK THE POSSIBILITY IS WHERE WE ARE AT THE MOMENT.

Q. WELL, THE POSSIBILITY COULD EXIST, ALONG WITH AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO CONTINUE IF THE CONGRESS AGREES.

A. I AGREE WITH YOU. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK IT FOR YOU. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WAS THE FIGURE THAT WAS IN THE COLUMN -- I THINK IT WAS SOMETHING LIKE A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS, WAS THAT CORRECT? SOMETHING LIKE A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS.

IS THAT THE SIZE OF THIS POSSIBLE SALE?

A. ON BACKGROUND -- I THINK THE AMOUNT REPORTED IN THE PRESS WAS 139 MILLION AS THE COST OF THE PACKAGE --

Q. YES.

A -- AND I WOULD NOT QUARREL WITH THAT AS A BALLPARK FIGURE FOR THE PROGRAM. THAT IS ON BACKGROUND.

Q. THERE HASN'T BEEN, THEN, THESE REQUIRED LETTERS OF -- WHATEVER THEY'RE CALLED -- THAT HAVE BEEN SENT ON TO THE CONGRESS?

A. WE HAVE GIVEN THE CONGRESS -- I SAID WE HAD PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. WE HAVE GIVEN THE CONGRESS INFORMAL ADVANCE NOTICE OF LETTERS OF OFFER VALUED AT ABOVE 25 MILLION DOLLARS.

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WE WILL BE PREPARED, OR WOULD BE PREPARED, TO DISCUSS THE PROGRAM IN GREATER DETAIL WHEN AND IF THE FORMAL NOTIFICATION GOES UP.

Q. IS THE U.S. OFFER CONTINGENT UPON AGREEMENT BY NORTH YEMEN TO DISCONTINUE THE PURCHASE OF ARMS FROM SOVIET RUSSIA?

A. WHILE IT IS IN THIS STAGE OF DISCUSSION, LLOYD, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY OF THE DETAILS OF IT.

Q. CAN WE GET INTO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DETAILS OF WHAT TYPES OF ARMS ARE INCLUDED IN THIS \$139,000,000?

A. NO, I AM NOT PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE SITUATION IN THE WESTERN BANK OF JORDAN AND THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING?

A. I DO NOT. I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT TODAY.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE BRIEFING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS:

Q. WHEN WERE THESE DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH THE CONGRESS?

A. APRIL 23, 1976 THE CONGRESS WAS PROVIDED WITH INFORMAL ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF LETTERS OF OFFER FOR

ARMS FOR NORTH YEMEN VALUED AT OVER U.S. \$25 MILLION.

Q. IS THERE AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AMONG THE UNITED STATES, SAUDI ARABIA AND NORTH YEMEN FOR THE UNITED STATES TO SUPPLY WEAPONS TO NORTH YEMEN?

A. LAST AUGUST WE CONFIRMED THAT THE USG WAS SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC (NORTH YEMAN) TO LOOK TO SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER FRIENDLY REGIONAL STATES TO ASSIST IN ITS MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. WE SAID WE WERE PREPARED TO SELL APPROPRIATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SOME TRAINING TO THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC WITHIN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRAMEWORK OF OUR OWN ANALYSIS OF THEIR LIMITED NEEDS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE108163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MVANORDER:DP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LE, XF
To: ALGIERS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006